

**Mad River Community Hospital**

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October 15, 1997

Ms. Andra Zach, RRA, MPA  
California Hospital Outcomes Project  
Office of Statewide Health and Planning Development  
717 K Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Acute Myocardial Infarction Review, 1991 to 1993

Dear Ms. Zach:

Your recent survey reported that we had 33 deaths out of 159 cases of myocardial infarction between the above mentioned years. These 33 patient records were reviewed by the Department of Internal Medicine. There were no medical quality of care issues identified during this review. It was found that 13 of these patients (39%) presented to the Emergency Room with irreversible brain damage and maintained a pulse long enough to be admitted to our acute care facility. Coding for anoxic or hypoxic encephalopathy was included in the discharge coding.

It is our contention that this may represent an acclamation of aggressive, well-trained emergency crews as well as citizens highly trained in CPR in our community. Seventy percent of our population lives within a six-minute response time for our emergency medical response teams which adds to our cardiac resuscitation percentage.

These types of cases should be eliminated from the database not only for our hospital, but statewide. Removing these 13 cases from the database would bring the mortality rate for Mad River Community Hospital down to 13.7%.

We need the statewide percentages for patients admitted to California hospitals with a pulse and anoxic encephalopathy to confirm our hypothesis. Your help in providing this information would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Lawrence A. Senffner, M.D.  
Chairman  
Department of Internal Medicine

LAS:jrlm

cc: Douglas A. Shaw  
Administrator